



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Jefferson National  
Expansion Memorial

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## Jefferson National Expansion Memorial News Release

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### **National Park Service to Host Informal Meetings as Part of Planning Process**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The National Park Service (NPS) will hold two informal “brown bag” sessions this week where Memorial staff will be available to answer questions concerning the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. These sessions are being held to help the public understand the NPS planning process and how they may participate in the public dialogue about the draft plan.

The meetings will be held on Thursday, January 29 at noon in the Old Courthouse, 11 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street and on Saturday, January 31 at 1 p.m. at Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, 7400 Grant Road. Additional brown bag sessions may be scheduled at a later date. If individuals or organizations are interested in hosting a public brown bag luncheon, groups are encouraged to contact the Superintendent’s office.

According to Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Superintendent Tom Bradley, “everyone is welcome to bring a lunch and join us in an informal question and answer format that we hope will answer any questions they have concerning the planning process.” The Draft GMP/EIS will remain available for public review through March 16, 2009.

Four alternative proposals for reinvigorating the Memorial are considered in the GMP. The NPS has identified Alternative 3 as the preferred alternative. The primary component of this alternative is a formal design competition akin to the original 1947 competition. Other changes considered in the GMP include accessible walkways to the underground visitor center and museum, and to the grounds from the riverfront. The plan examines a pedestrian walkway over Memorial Drive and the Interstate Highway that would connect the Arch grounds to the grounds near the Old Courthouse. Such a walkway would allow visitors to move from downtown to the Arch more safely.



Streetscape changes (plantings, pedestrian access changes) would be made to make the environment surrounding the Memorial more inviting and visitor friendly. Expansion to the East St. Louis riverfront is also considered. Minor modifications are proposed for the interior of the Old Courthouse, and wayside exhibits added to the grounds to enhance the visitor experience and learning at the Memorial. Expansion of the existing museum space or modifications to other existing facilities has also been considered to provide greater learning and interpretive services. Consideration has been given to the addition of food service (temporary/ seasonal/portable, self-contained refreshment vendors), restrooms, modified security checkpoints, and other changes suggested in the past by the public.

The Draft GMP/EIS is available on the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) internet website at < <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/jeff> >. Copies are available by request (please specify print or electronic version) by contacting the Superintendent at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 11 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Saint Louis, Missouri 63102; by telephone to 314-655-1611; or by e-mail to [JEFF\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:JEFF_Superintendent@nps.gov).

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